

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the following amended claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polypeptide group, the amino acid sequence of which group confers restricted conformational flexibility, as a linking group to link~~ A method of linking binding units in a multivalent binding protein comprising linking said binding units with a polypeptide linking group, the amino acid sequence of which group confers restricted conformational flexibility.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide linking group comprises from 4 to 30 amino acid residues.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the linking group comprises one or more proline residues.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the linking group comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

S-S-S-A-S-A-S-S-A,

G-S-P-G-S-P-G, ~~or~~ and

A-T-T-T-G-S-S-P-G-P-T.

5. (Original) A multivalent binding protein comprising a plurality of binding units linked by means of intervening polypeptide linker groups, the amino acid sequence of which linker group confers restricted conformational flexibility.

6. (Original) A protein according to claim 5 wherein the binding units comprise heavy chain variable domains derived from an immunoglobulin naturally devoid of light chains.

7. (Original) A protein according to claim 5 or claim 6 wherein the antigen binding units comprise heavy chain variable domains derived from a Camelid immunoglobulin.

8. (Original) A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 7 comprising a bivalent antigen binding protein.

9. (Original) A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 8 wherein, the linker group comprises from 4 to 30 amino acid residues.

10. (Original) A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein the linker group comprises one or more proline residues.

11. (Original) A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein the linker group comprises an amino acid sequence selected from:

S-S-S-A-S-A-S-S-A,

G-S-P-G-S-P-G, or

A-T-T-T-G-S-S-P-G-P-T.

12. (Original) Nucleotide sequences encoding for a multivalent binding protein of any one of claims 5 to 11.

13. (Original) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence according to claim

12.

14. (Original) A host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 13.